## **Claims**

- 1. A flame retardant composition which comprises
  - (a) a thermoplastic polymeric substrate,
  - (b) a mixture of
  - a hydroxylamine ester having a structural element of formula (I) or formula (I')
     or a polymeric hydroxylamine ester having a repetitive structural unit of formula (II) or (II')

wherein

X is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{36}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{36}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkinyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{10}$ aryl, -O- $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl,

-O-C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>aryl, -NH-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl, -NH-C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>aryl, -N(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

X' is a direct bond or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkenylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkinylene,

-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylene)-phenylene-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylene)- or a group from a dimer acid:

 $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ,  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  are independently alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  together and  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  together, or  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  together or  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  together are pentamethylene;  $G_5$  and  $G_6$  are independently hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl;

 $R_1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_7$ cycloalkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_9$ aralkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkanoyl,  $C_3$ - $C_5$ alkenoyl or benzoyl; and

- (ii) a flame retardant compound selected from the group consisting of halogenated, phosphorus, boron, silicon and antimony compounds, metal hydroxides, metal hydrates, metal oxides and mixtures thereof.
- 2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxylamine ester is of formula (la) or (l'a)

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$$R_{20}$$
  $N-O$   $X$   $(Ia)$ ,  $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$   $R_{30}$ 

X is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{36}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{36}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkinyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{10}$ aryl, -O- $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl, -O- $C_6$ - $C_{10}$ aryl, -NH- $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl, -NH- $C_6$ - $C_{10}$ aryl, -N( $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

X' is a direct bond or  $C_1$ - $C_{36}$ alkylene,  $C_3$ - $C_{36}$ alkylene,  $C_3$ - $C_{36}$ alkylene, -( $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkylene)-phenyl-( $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkylene) or a group from a dimer acid;

 $R_{20}$  and  $R_{30}$  independently are unsubstituted  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkenyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkinyl or with halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub> or -COOR<sub>40</sub> substituted or with O or NR<sub>40</sub> interrupted  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkenyl or  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkinyl;

R<sub>40</sub> is H, phenyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl; or

 $R_{20}$  and  $R_{30}$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound form a 5 or 6 membered ring which may be interrupted by a nitrogen or oxygen atom and which may be substituted by one or more  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl groups, carboxyl groups,  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkoxy groups,  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkanoyloxy groups.

3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the structural element of formula (I) is of formula (Ib)

O 
$$G_2$$
  $G_6$  (Ib) wherein \* denotes a bond and the other substituents  $G_3$   $G_4$   $G_5$ 

are as defined in claim 1.

4. A composition according to claim 3 wherein the hydroxylamine ester is of formula A, B or C.

wherein

 $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ,  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  are methyl or  $G_1$  and  $G_3$  are methyl and  $G_2$  and  $G_4$  are ethyl or  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are methyl and  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  are ethyl;

 $G_{\scriptscriptstyle{5}}$  and  $G_{\scriptscriptstyle{6}}$  are independently hydrogen or methyl;

m is 1;

R is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl which is uninterrupted or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl which is interrupted by one or more oxygen atoms, cyanoethyl, benzoyl, glycidyl, a monovalent radical of an aliphatic carboxylic acid having 2 to 18 carbon atoms, of a cycloaliphatic carboxylic acid having 7 to

15 carbon atoms, or an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid having 3 to 5 carbon atoms or of an aromatic carboxylic acid having 7 to 15 carbon atoms, where each carboxylic acid can be substituted in the aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic moiety by 1 to 3 -COOZ<sub>12</sub> groups, in which Z<sub>12</sub> is H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>cycloalkyl, phenyl or benzyl; or R is a monovalent radical of a carbamic acid or phosphorus-containing acid or a monovalent silyl radical;

p is 1;

 $R_1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_7$ cycloalkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_8$ aralkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkanoyl,  $C_3$ - $C_5$ alkenoyl or benzoyl;  $R_2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_7$ cycloalkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_8$ alkenyl unsubstituted or substituted by a cyano, carbonyl or carbamide group, or is glycidyl, a group of the formula - $CH_2CH(OH)$ -Z or of the formula -CO-Z- or -CONH-Z wherein Z is hydrogen, methyl or phenyl;  $C_3$ - $C_5$ - $C_7$ 

 $R_3$  is  $C_2\text{-}C_8$ alkylene or hydroxyalkylene or  $C_4\text{-}C_{38}$ acyloxyalkylene and

X is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkyl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>aryl.

5. A composition according to claim 4 wherein the hydroxylamine ester is of formula A or C  $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ,  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  are methyl or  $G_1$  and  $G_3$  are methyl and  $G_2$  and  $G_4$  are ethyl;  $G_5$  and  $G_6$  are independently hydrogen or methyl;

m is 1;

R is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl, a monovalent radical of an aliphatic carboxylic acid having 2 to 18 carbon atoms, of a cycloaliphatic carboxylic acid having 7 to 15 carbon atoms, or an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid having 3 to 5 carbon atoms or of an aromatic carboxylic acid having 7 to 15 carbon atoms;

n is 1:

 $R_3$  is  $C_2$ - $C_8$ alkylene or hydroxyalkylene or  $C_4$ - $C_{38}$ acyloxyalkylene and X is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_{36}$ alkyl or  $C_6$ - $C_{10}$ aryl.

6. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxylamineester is a oligomer or polymer obtainable by reacting a dicarboxylic acid or a dicarboxylic acid derivative with a compound of formula A1 or B1 or by reacting a diisocyanate with a compound of formula A1

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$$G_1$$
 $G_2$ 
 $G_6$ 
 $G_6$ 
 $G_7$ 
 $G_7$ 
 $G_7$ 
 $G_7$ 
 $G_8$ 
 $G_8$ 
 $G_8$ 
 $G_8$ 
 $G_8$ 
 $G_9$ 
 $G_9$ 

wherein the substituents G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>, G<sub>3</sub>, G<sub>4</sub>, G<sub>5</sub>, G<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>1</sub> are as defined in claim 6.

- 7. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxylamine ester is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 15 weight-% based on the weight of the polymer.
- 8. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polymer substrate is selected from the group of resins consisting of the polyolefins, the thermoplastic olefins, styrenic polymers and copolymers.
- 9. A composition according to claim 8 wherein the polymer substrate is polypropylene, polyethylene, thermoplastic olefin (TPO), polystrene, ABS, high impact polystyrene, expandable polystyrene (EPS) and extrusion foamed polystyrene.
- 10. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the flame retardant component (ii) is selected from the group consisting of

tetraphenyl resorcinol diphosphite (FYROLFLEX® RDP)

chloroalkyl phosphate esters (ANTIBLAZE® AB-100 or FYROL® FR-2)

polybrominated diphenyl oxide (DE-60F)

decabromodiphenyl oxide (DBDOP),

antimony trioxide (Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>),

antimony pentoxide (Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>),

tris[3-bromo-2,2-(bromomethyl)propyl] phosphate (PB 370®),

triphenyl phosphate,

bis(2,3-dibromopropyl ether) of bisphenol A (PE68),

ammonium polyphosphate (APP) or (HOSTAFLAM® AP750),

resorcinol diphosphate oligomer (RDP),

brominated epoxy resin,

tetrabromobisphenol A-bis-(allyl ether), hexabromocyclododecane, dibromocyclohexane tribromophenol-cyanurate (Dead Sea® FR-245) ethylene-bis(tetrabromophthalimide) (BT93), bis(hexachlorocyclopentadieno)cyclooctane (DECLORANE PLUS®), calcium sulfate chlorinated paraffins, magnesium carbonate, melamine phosphates, melamine pyrophosphates, molybdenum trioxide, zinc oxide, 1,2-bis(tribromophenoxy)ethane (FF680), tetrabromo-bisphenol A (SAYTEX® RB100), Saytex® BC-56HS (Albemarle) magnesium hydroxide, alumina trihydrate, zinc borate, and ethylenediamine diphosphate (EDAP). Oligomeric diisopropyl benzene

- 11. A composition according to claim 10 wherein the flame retardant compound (ii) is tris[3-bromo-2,2-(bromomethyl)propyl] phosphate (PB370), hexabromocyclododecane, tetrabromobisphenol A-bis-(allyl ether), dibromocyclohexane and Saytex BC-56HS (Albemarle).
- 12. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the flame retardant component (ii) is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 30 weight-% based on the weight of the polymer.
- 13. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the ratio by weight between component (i) and (ii) is from 10:1 to 1:100.

14. A composition according to claim 1, which additionally contains an organic peroxide and/or another radical generator.

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- 15. A composition according to claim 1 which additionally contains a further additive selected from the group consisting of a UV absorber, a sterically hindered amine, a phenolic antioxidant, a phosphite or phosphonite and a benzofuranone or an indolinone.
- 16. A method of making a thermoplastic polymer flame retarding by incorporating into the thermoplastic polymer

a mixture of

 a hydroxylamine ester having a structural element of formula (I) or formula (I') or with a polymeric hydroxylamine ester having a repetitive structural unit of formula (II) or (II')

wherein

X' is a direct bond or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkenylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkinylene,

-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylene)-phenylene-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylene)- or a group from a dimer acid;

 $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ,  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  are independently alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  together and  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  together, or  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  together or  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  together are pentamethylene;  $G_5$  and  $G_6$  are independently hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl;

 $R_1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_7$ cycloalkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_8$ aralkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkanoyl,  $C_3$ - $C_5$ alkenoyl or benzoyl; and

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(ii) a flame retardant compound selected from the group consisting of halogenated, phosphorus, boron, silicon and antimony compounds, metal hydroxides, metal hydrates, metal oxides and mixtures thereof.

## 17. A Flame retardant mixture comprising

(i) a hydroxylamine ester having a structural element of formula (I) or formula (I') or with a polymeric hydroxylamine ester having a repetitive structural unit of formula (II) or (II')

wherein

X is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>38</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkinyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>aryl, -O-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl,

 $-O-C_6-C_{10}$ aryl,  $-NH-C_1-C_{18}$ alkyl,  $-NH-C_6-C_{10}$ aryl,  $-N(C_1-C_6$ alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

X' is a direct bond or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkenylene, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>alkinylene,

-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylene)-phenylene-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkylene) or a group from a dimer acid;

 $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ,  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  are independently alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  together and  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  together, or  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  together or  $G_3$  and  $G_4$  together are pentamethylene;  $G_5$  and  $G_6$  are independently hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl;

 $R_1$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ alkyl,  $C_5$ - $C_7$ cycloalkyl,  $C_7$ - $C_8$ aralkyl,  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ alkanoyl,  $C_3$ - $C_5$ alkenoyl or benzoyl; and

- (ii) a flame retardant compound selected from the group consisting of halogenated, phosphorus, boron, silicon and antimony compounds, metal hydroxides, metal hydrates, metal oxides and mixtures thereof.
- 18. Use of a mixture according to claim 17 as flame retarding additive for thermoplastic polymer articles.

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19. Use of a hydroxylaminester according to claim 1 as flame retarding additive for thermoplastic polymer articles.